

through the agency of the Delhi Municipal Corporation. I could not say offhand what is the total area. They are developing about 8,000 to 10,000 plots. They have already made a good, substantial progress in this direction.

#### Houses for M.Ps.

\*630. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi**: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute scarcity of bungalows and large three bedroom flats for allotment to Members of Parliament; and

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to provide more of such accommodation and by when this would materialise?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar)**: (a) and (b). There is no proposal to construct bungalows and large three-bedroom flats for Members of Parliament. It is, however, proposed to construct 144 suites—24 double and 120 single—for Members of Parliament on Rafi Marg in addition to 20 flats already under construction on North Avenue.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi**: The first part of the question has not been answered. The reply is only in respect of the proposal not being there. The first part of the question has not been replied to.

**Mr. Speaker**: Whether there is scarcity or not: it should not be inferred; he says it should be stated that there is.

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna)**: Our own feeling in the matter is that after we have built about 160 flats, all Members of Parliament would be provided with adequate accommodation.

**Mr. Speaker**: At present, there is scarcity.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna**: There is scarcity to the extent that we have not been able to provide Members of Parliament, accommodation near Parliament House. Some have to come from as far a way as Vinay Marg. Our intention is to give them accommodation as near the Parliament House as possible. Both the schemes have been sanctioned. One is under implementation and the construction of the other flats will be taken up very soon, within a month or two.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi**: May I know whether it is a fact that the Housing Committee of Parliament have asked the Government to increase the available quota of bungalows and larger flats available to Parliament in view of the fact that the size of the Union legislature has increased considerably since the Constitution came into force?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna**: What I have been told by the House Committees is this, that the Members who live far away in Vinay Marg are too far away for their parliamentary work and we should provide them with flats in Meena Bagh. Orders have been passed to that extent what whenever a flat becomes available it will be offered to a Member of Parliament who is living far away.

**Mr. Speaker**: Shri Buta Singh.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi**: I had asked only one question. The first was a clarification.

**Mr. Speaker**: I was taxing my memory to find out whether I had made a mistake. But he does not say that the first supplementary was a question.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi**: It was part of the original question.

**Mr. Speaker**: I will see if I can accommodate him.

**Shri Buta Singh**: May I know whether there are still MPs' residences occupied by persons not entitled to them. If so, may we have the details?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** The answer is in the affirmative, and every possible action is being taken to evict them. I have not been fairly successful in that direction.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Why not?

**An Hon. Member:** How many are there?

**Shri Inder J. Malhotra:** What particular steps and action have been taken in the past in this regard?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not in the Parliament's interest to disclose these things.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** We take action under the Public Premises (Eviction) Act which itself is a very long and dilatory process. I am trying to have the Act amended by bringing it up before the House this year.

**Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Is it a fact that 60 or more government bungalows are in the occupation of individuals who are not in the list of those engaged in government service or social service? If so, what steps have been taken to release them and give them to MPs?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a different question. We have a different pool and the number is fixed.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether the forces of nepotism and favouritism are allowed to operate in allotting flats to MPs? I know of MPs living in the same flats for the last six years, who have run from pillar to post and have not been allotted new flats?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is not his job. The House Committees are there.

**Shri Rajeshwar Patel:** The hon. Minister stated that some of the flats occupied by MPs happen to be far away from Parliament House and therefore they have to be provided with flats nearby. Is it also a fact that some of the bungalows which had been in the pool of MPs, for a long time have recently been taken out of the pool and given to outsiders?

**Mr. Speaker:** Has it been reduced?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** In one case a bungalow which was part of the MPs pool had been allotted to an ex-MP and I have been asked to make up the deficiency. In the case of another ex-MP, a similar proposal is under consideration.

**Mr. Speaker:** So far as I know, that was the first condition made, namely, that if one bungalow is to be taken out of the MPs pool, a substitute bungalow shall have to be put into the pool, and the pool shall not be reduced.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** No. That is being done.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** On a point of order. The House Committee, which is nominated by you, must be consulted and its permission obtained before such a change is made.

**Mr. Speaker:** Unless the Committee is consulted and its consent obtained, it cannot be done. The Committee was consulted.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** It gave its consent?

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, it gave this consent, that if a similar bungalow of the same status with the same facilities is provided, then alone it can agree to it. It was done.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** May I know if this particular ex-MP got his own house in Delhi and yet he has been allotted a bungalow?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** I have no idea.

I want to make the position clear through you. As far as the Ministry is concerned, we do not make any allotments. We place certain accommodation at the disposal of the House Committees. They make these allotments. We only act upon these allotments. If an ex-MP does not vacate it, then my duty as the Ladding of the House Committee concerned is to see that action is taken to evict him. No

allotment is directly made to Members of Parliament—either distinguished parliamentarians or other Members of Parliament—by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Why distinguished Member of Parliament? Why this sting in the end? We want to know the difference between Members of Parliament and distinguished Members of Parliament.

**Mr. Speaker:** All are equally distinguished. (*Interruptions*). No distinction should be made. All are equally distinguished.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** I did not mean to cast any aspersion. I apologise to the House and to you. I did not mean to cast any aspersion on anybody.

There are two distinct pools. There are eleven or twelve bungalows in the first pool. Allotment out of that is not controlled by the Ministry. There is another pool of 500 or 600 bungalows called the MPs. pool. That also is not controlled by the Ministry. The allotment is made by the House Committees. One allotment is controlled by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

#### Steam Boilers

\*631. **Dr. U. Misra:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steam boilers of less than five gallons volumetric capacity which are exempt from the Indian Boilers Act and Rules, are being made and sold by Indian firms and are being operated without license;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are no standard specifications or standard codes of practice for the design, construction, testing and inspection of such boilers; and

(c) if so, the steps if any, proposed to be taken to amend the Indian Boilers Act and Rules?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation**

**(Shri P. S. Naskar):** (a) So far as Government are aware, one firm was manufacturing such small boilers but they have since suspended this line of manufacture and are now manufacturing boilers covered by Indian Boiler Regulations.

(b) and (c). The question of amending the Indian Boilers Act, 1923, so as to bring boilers of less than five gallons capacity within the purview of the said Act is under consideration of Government.

**Dr. U. Misra:** Is it not a fact that accidents are happening in the case of the unlicensed boilers?

**Shri P. S. Naskar:** We have no information that accidents are more in the category of unlicensed boilers, below five gallons.

**Dr. U. Misra:** Is there any suggestion by the Boiler Board pending with the Government regarding these boilers, and if so, when is it expected to become part of the statute?

**Shri P. S. Naskar:** I have stated in the original answer that there are certain amendments that we are considering to bring before the House in regard to boilers, whether small or big.

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna):** I might add for the information of the House that one specific amendment or recommendation has been made, that no boiler unless it is licensed to be five gallons should be manufactured. That firm has stopped manufacturing these boilers, but we are bringing forward legislation not only for one item. The idea is that we bring a comprehensive legislation covering some other items too, and we propose to bring it before the House possibly in the next session.

**Shri Priya Gupta:** The Deputy Minister just now explained that the boilers below five gallons capacity have been ordered to be stopped for